

Please oppose the Normandy Tower upzoning

Susan Yanow <susan@susanyanow.com>

Thu 5/14/2015 7:25 AM

City Clerk Agenda

To:City Council <CityCouncil@CambridgeMA.GOV>;

Cc:Lopez, Donna <dlopez@cambridgema.gov>;

Dear City Council,

I write to respectfully urge you to vote against the rezoning of the Quest properties in my neighborhood for the enormous tower requested by Normandy/Twining. I am a long time advocate of affordable housing, but 40 units does not justify permitting almost 200 luxury units in a 195 tower which will create a wall at the edge of Area 4. The developer will make millions of dollars, our neighborhood will see continued rising rents and gentrification, and a precedent will be set for Kendall Square-type massive buildings along Massachusetts Avenue. This is a poor deal for such a small number of affordable units.

Two years ago, over 1,000 residents signed a petition requesting a Master Plan with no spot zoning during the planning process. While the City has delayed this planning for over two years, it is the key to creating a livable City for all of us, balancing the needs for affordable and middle class housing with livable neighborhood and thoughtful designs for our commercial centers. Please do not allow Twining to "jump the cue" with this massive upzoning petition.

Thank you.

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